

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this 6th Sunday in Lent
April 2, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Pastor Jim Cope and Pastor Jan Garinger

Bless the
Lent we
Actually
Have



Palm Sunday – Blessed Are The Rejected

The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

Choral Introit “Come and Find the Quiet Center” Insert

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed;
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.**

Palm Sunday Poem

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The journey has been long and sometimes very difficult.

All: During this Lenten journey we have seen miracles and mysteries.

Leader: Now the Lord comes to us in victory.

All: Jesus rides into Jerusalem and into our hearts.

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's Name!

All: Hosanna in the highest! Amen

***Opening Hymn “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna ” #213 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that when we started this journey, it seemed like a fun idea. Walk the road with Jesus, we thought. But the journey has had many difficult times when our spirits have been challenged and tried. We have come to the time of entrance into the Holy City. We want everything to be wonderful; for you to conquer all those things that threaten us and our peace. We want you to do what we direct. Forgive us, Lord, when we place our fears and ignorance before your love. Help us to look again at the many ways in which we can be a blessing to others, through serving them and you. Release us from our panic and mistrust and help us to place our lives solely in your hands.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Rejoice, the Lord has come into our presence. We are the beloved ones of God.

All: We know that God walks with us through this parade and time of celebration and in all the times ahead. Amen

***Choral Response “On Eagles Wings” #775 (NCH)**
And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children of all ages

Choral Preparation “Breathe On Me Breath of God” #191(RED)

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.**

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Psalm 31:9-16
New Testament Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel Reading Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon “Is Your Name Christopher?” Pastor Garinger

Hymn “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #216 (NCH)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response** **“Take My Gifts”** **#562 (NCH)**
Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find, Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

***Prayer of Dedication**
Thank you, O God, for coming to us in Christ Jesus. Work through these gifts, that the world might know the breadth of your mercy and your grace. Bless our very lives, that we might be faithful disciples and stewards of your love. With gratitude and joy, we pray. Amen

The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer

Prayers of the People
The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Words of Benediction**

Oh God, you are interrupting us with eternity once again. Open our hearts and minds and eyes and ears to hear what you have to teach us. On this Palm Sunday, time is marked as one small donkey plods toward Jerusalem, One with a face set like flint, feet almost grazing the ground, walks forward toward the eastering of all sorrow —not in the power of horses and swift victory, but in small, steady steps. toward the mystery that through suffering, healing comes, that through shame, dignity is restored, that through the cross that powers are disarmed, and death done away with forever. Blessed are all those walking forward into the great, small work they do: in hospitals, homes, grocery stores, classrooms, churches, and cubicles. And blessed are we joining the crowds waving palm branches to shout ourselves hoarse: “Hosanna! Save us! Save our world.” God, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Spirit, have mercy. Amen

***Hymn** **“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”** **#226 (NCH)**

Note: After the final hymn we will be leaving the sanctuary in silence as we begin our journey into Holy Week.

*Indicates that all who are able, please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.
Notice Someone Missing? *If so give them a call and let them know they are missed.*